



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending September 13, 2009

TROPICAL WEATHER CONTINUES

WEATHER SUMMARY: Daytime highs for the week were in the upper 80s and low 90s. Lows were in the mid-60s at most locations across the Panhandle and northern Florida. The central and southern Peninsula reported lows mostly in the 70s. Rainfall was reported at all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) locations. Counties across central Florida received the heaviest rainfall during the week with amounts between three to four inches common. South Florida locations reported precipitation generally in the two to three inches range. Osceola, Desoto, and Hillsborough counties reported 4.86, 4.50, and 4.32 inches, respectively.

FIELD CROPS: Peanut harvesting was reported as 20% complete compared to 7% last year and a five year average of 9%. Peanut condition was rated 18% fair, 61% good, and 21% excellent. Cotton bolls continue to open but picking has not started. Soybeans benefitted from continued showers and were in good condition, although significant worm pressure has been reported. Corn for grain harvest was nearing completion and yields were reported as very good. Drying in some areas has accelerated haying and yields were above average but quality was below normal. Preparations are underway for fall and winter forage crops as summer crops are completed.

Peanut Progress – Week Ending September 13, 2009			
Stage	2009	2008	5-yr Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Harvested	20	7	9

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	This week	Last week	Last year	This week	Last week	Last Year
	<i>Percent</i>					
Very short	0	1	2	0	0	1
Short	10	4	13	11	5	9
Adequate	65	80	66	62	75	65
Surplus	25	15	19	27	20	25

VEGETABLES: In southwest Florida, growers prepared ground and laid plastic in the beginning of the week trying to get back on schedule. Mid-week precipitation caused more delays. Wet conditions were causing some disease problems. Farmers have been running throw-out pumps to remove standing water and spraying to control pests and disease. In Columbia County harvesting of cucumbers was complete. Eggplant, sweet corn, and tomatoes were doing well. Snap beans in Levy County were well established and looking good. Growers in Putnam County were preparing to plant cabbage and beets. Okra, avocados, and some truck crops were marketed.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES: In the Panhandle and northern areas, pasture was in fair to good condition with most in good condition. Land preparation for seeding winter forage continued and was aided by showers. The condition of cattle ranged from fair to excellent. In the central areas, pasture was poor to excellent with armyworms causing some damage. Pasture and rangeland suffered from nutrient loss from excessive rainfall. In the southwest areas, range condition varied from poor to excellent. Many pastures were flooded or have standing water from previous or recent rain. However, pasture condition in other locations had poor condition due to low soil moisture. Cattle condition was poor to excellent with most in good condition. Statewide, most cattle were in good condition.

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	This week	Last week	This week	Last week
	<i>Percent</i>			
Very poor	0	1	0	0
Poor	2	2	2	1
Fair	13	12	20	14
Good	65	60	55	60
Excellent	20	25	23	25

CITRUS: Citrus growing areas along the West Coast and some inland areas had pouring rain over the weekend; other areas had lighter rain showers. Arcadia and Balm received the most rainfall at over four inches. Lake Alfred followed with just over three inches. Trees continued to look good due to the rain and long days of sunshine with limbs flushing out new growth and fruit in good condition. New crop fruit was sizing well with little evidence of off or late bloom. Grove practices included herbiciding, mowing in preparation for harvest, fertilizing, spraying, and young tree care. Grove caretakers continued to survey groves for greening, treated trees for citrus psyllid, and removed already infected trees.

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